(d) whether this route would replace the existing route through Lipulekh pass through Kumaon region of Uttarakhand or both routes would continue to be used?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The Government of India have discussed with China the issue of opening additional routes for pilgrims to Kailash-Mansarover since 1992. During the visit of President Hu Jintao of China from November 20 to 23,2006, the two sides agreed to explore the possibility of opening an additional route. One of the additional routes proposed by Government is through Ladakh.

Iran Atomic Non-Proliferation Bill, 2007

†4625. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

whether consequent upon passing of Iran Atomic Non-Proliferation Bill, 2007 presented in the House of Representatives of America, the right of the American Administration to exempt to take stern action or to be imposed ban on the companies engaged in trade with Iran would come to an end, and

if so, the effect of this bill on the Iran-Pak-lndo gas pipeline?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) A bill entitled the "Iran Counter-Proliferation Act of 2007 (HR 1400)" was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives on March 8,2007. It seeks to "enhance United States diplomatic efforts with respect to Iran by imposing additional economic sanctions against Iran, and for other purposes." A similar bill has been introduced in the U.S. Senate.

(c) The bills are yet to be passed by both Houses of Congress. At this stage, it would be premature to comment on hypothetical implications of a bill whose passage and final version are not known.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.